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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABUJA 002982

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF, AF/W, AF/RA AND AF/E  
DEPT ALSO PASS TO SPECIAL ENVOY DANFORTH  
LONDON, PARIS, ROME, OSLO FOR AFRICA WATCHERS  
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/26/2011

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SUBJECT: NIGERIA: NSA MOHAMMED DISCUSSES SUDAN, DROC,  
BURUNDI

(U) Classified by Ambassador Howard F. Jeter; Reasons 1.5 (b)  
and (d).

1. (C) SUMMARY: Ambassador Jeter, accompanied by PolCouns and PolMilOff, called on NSA Aliyu Mohammed on November 11. The President's Special Coordinator for Sudan, Dr. Usman Bugaje also attended. This message covers their conversation on Nigeria's foreign affairs efforts.

2. (C) SUMMARY CONTINUED: Stymied on recent Sudan and DROC efforts, NSA Mohammed and Bugaje described Nigeria's efforts thus far, but without much sense of next steps. The Sudan conference is postponed, and Nigeria is looking to Senator Danforth's trip for direction. The key players on the DROC, Kabila, Bemba and Osunumba, have agreed to another try for an Abuja meeting, but no date has yet been set. The NSA agreed to pass a matrix outlining anti-terrorism treaty ratification status to the President for review. END SUMMARY.

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SUDAN POSTPONED  
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3. (C) Special Sudan Coordinator, Dr. Usman Bugaje, described Nigerian efforts on Sudan. Bugaje emphasized that Nigeria's only goal in holding the now postponed conference was to provide a venue for consensus-building; it was never intended as a negotiating forum. In the GON's view, the event was not important, only the outcome. Bugaje said that he believed the GOS thought the process was moving too quickly; therefore, it was better to postpone. Asked about SPLM views on the conference, Bugaje said that the SPLM had been "keen to attend," and the NDA had even sought extra invitations, but there were some (not further identified) who did not want a resolution of the conflict, because "peace would cost them their positions."

4. (C) Ambassador Jeter noted that, in response to President Obasanjo's request, the USG had explained to Egypt that Nigeria was not trying to hijack the Sudan peace process, and wondered what Egypt's concerns might have been. Bugaje said he thought that the Egyptians were afraid of any effort that they could not control because they feared that such an effort could lead to a divided Sudan. President Obasanjo had written to Mubarak to explain that Nigeria would never seek division of Sudan; on the contrary, Nigeria supported greater integration on the Continent, not fragmentation of existing states. In any case, Bugaje said that Nigeria looks forward to hearing about Senator Danforth's upcoming trip, which should inform the GON on the next steps it might take.

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WHITHER BURUNDI?  
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5. (C) Complimenting the NSA on President Obasanjo's support for peace in Burundi, the Ambassador asked about Nigeria's next steps. The NSA said Nigeria would send a battalion to support the effort, but he was not sure when or where the funding would come from. He was also unsure who might replace Mandela.

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DROC - ANOTHER MEETING?  
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16. (C) Agreeing that the Congolese National Dialogue meetings in Addis were not successful, the NSA said he believed many of the Addis participants would not attend the meeting in South Africa. Nigeria had tried to help with the disarmament process by asking President Kabila to contain his Minister of Security, but Kabila was a blood nephew of the Minister and was not willing or able to challenge his senior uncle. Nigeria was trying to schedule another meeting in Abuja with Kabila, Bemba and Osunumba, but had not yet set a date.

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ANTI-TERRORISM CONVENTIONS  
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17. (C) Ambassador Jeter passed the NSA a matrix on the status of signature and ratification of anti-terrorism conventions of West African states, and requested that Nigeria work toward signature and ratification of the treaties. The NSA, looking over the document (which makes for easy comparison among ECOWAS states), said the matrix made it apparent that Nigeria was not doing too well, and said he would pass the paper to the President for review.

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COMMENT  
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18. (C) COMMENT: Most of Nigeria's recent conflict resolution efforts have been stymied by unwilling participants. Nevertheless, Nigeria will continue to engage on the Continent. Regional and indeed Continental stability remains the watchword of Nigeria's foreign policy. END COMMENT.  
Jeter